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Alburg, VT 05440**

January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

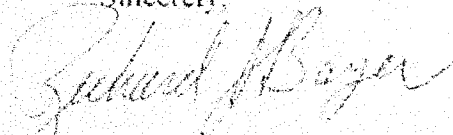
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to you today to voice my support for the Microsoft settlement. Three years have now passed since the beginning of this case. During this time, much money has been wasted. Federal dollars have been squandered on court mediators and countless extensions. The settlement of this case then is a welcome end to the protracted litigation.

The settlement that was reached is equitable. Microsoft agrees to share with its competitors some of the workings of its operating system. This gives developers the freedom to design software that will be increasingly compatible with the Windows system. While this is a large concession on behalf of Microsoft, I agree with Microsoft's support of the settlement. The settlement allows Microsoft to finally resolve this issue. Getting back to business is important to Microsoft.

I agree with Microsoft's decision to settle this case. I believe that the terms of this agreement are fair. I hope that the Justice Department will enact this settlement as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Bayer".

Richard Bayer